

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11

IO-12 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 COME-00 RSR-01

/127 W

----- 037575

R 110920 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8619

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 1484

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR XE

SUBJECT: GOS RELATIONS WITH DRV

SUMMARY

STORY APPEARED LAST WEEK IN NEW NATION QUOTING UNIDENTIFIED MFA SOURCE WHO STATED THAT GOS- DRV TIES JUST AROUND CORNER. ACCORDING TO SENIOR FMA OFFICIAL IT WAS UNAUTHORIZED LEAK. DRV ANSWERED THROUGH INTERVIEW GIVEN BY ITS UNOFFICIAL TRADE MISSION IN SINGAPORE THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS GOOD IDEA. HOWEVER, NO TALKS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS HAVE OCCURRED AS YET. GOS IS NOT IN RUSH TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS, BUT SOME MOVEMENT IS POSSIBLE IN THIS DIRECTION IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 31, DAY AFTER GOM ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH DRV, ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEW NATION CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORY WITH HEADLINE " TIES WITH NORTH
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VIETNAM SOON". STORY STATED THAT " OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH HANOI WILL BE MADE SOON AT AMBASSADORIAL OR CHARGE' D' AFFAIRES LEVEL". IT QUOTED FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE AS SAYING " IT IS ACCEPTED THAT SINGAPORE WILL HAVE TO SET UP SOME FORM OF RELATIONS WITH HANOI AS WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE ITS EXISTANCE IN SE ASIA. FURTHER, THE VIETNAM WAR HAS ENDED AND SINGAPORE SUPPORTS IN PRINCIPLE THE EXPANSION OF ASEAN TO INCLUDE NORTH VIETNAM AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT THINK NEW MEMBERS SUCH AS HANOI SHOULD BE ADMITTED INTO ASEAN UNTIL THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN VIETNAM IS MORE SETTLED."

2. ACCORDING TO MFA, ARTICLE WAS SLIP UP OF INEXPERIENCED DESK OFFICER. HOWEVER, MFA OFFICIAL LARGELY SUBSTANTIATED CONTENTS OF STORY WITH EXCEPTION THAT ACTUAL TIMING OF RECOGNITION STILL APPEARS TO BE UP IN AIR. GOS FEELS RELATIONS COULD BE ESTABLISHED AT ANY TIME, BUT THERE IS NO HURRY. RECOGNITION IS NOT TIED TO ANYTHING ELSE AT THIS POINT AND GOS FEELS CERTAIN DRV WOULD ACCEPT APPROACH. DRV HAS NOT AS YET MADE CONTACT WITH GOS.

3. IN APRIL 8 SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE, AN INTERVIEW WITH DO TRONG LUONG HEAD OF UNOFFICIAL DRV TRADE MISSION IN SINGAPORE, APPEARED TO BE DRV RESPONSE TO NEW NATION STORY. THIS WAS FIRST INTERVIEW GIVEN BY LUONG WHO HAS BEEN IN SINGAPORE SINCE AUGUST 1971 WITH NO PUBLICITY. HE STATED THAT DRV HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED TIES WITH MALAYSIA AND, IT WOULD BE " VERY GOOD IF WE COULD ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SINGAPORE". LUONG MENTIONED THAT SINGAPORE COULD PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH VIETNAM. HE SUGGESTED HELP IN THE AREAS OF CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES, FACTORIES, WHARVES AND ROADS AND IN PROVIDING SKILLED MANPOWER, MACHINERY AND IMPORTED BUILDING MATERIALS. HE FURTHER STATED THAT DRV WOULD CONSIDER FLOATING RECONSTRUCTION OR DEVELOPMENT LOANS IN SINGAPORE MARKET.

4. COMMENT: NO CONSTITUENCY IN SINGAPORE IS PUSHING FOR TIES, SO GOS IS NOT HURRYING INTO ANYTHING. IT WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH DEVELOPMENTS IN INDO- CHINA AND IN ALL LIKELIHOOD WILL DISCUSS OPTIONS WITH ITS FELLOW MEMBERS OF ASEAN BEFORE MAKING ANY MOVE.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SINGAP01484
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730440/aaaaigdn.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Nov-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <17-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971224
Subject: GOS RELATIONS WITH DRV
TAGS: PFOR, XE, n/a
To: BANGKOK
EA
JAKARTA
KUALA LUMPUR
MANILA
SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005